# Perthshire woman banned after repeat drink-driving wrecks and road chaos



# Reckless Driving in Perthshire: A Sobering Tale of Alcohol Abuse

A recent case in Perthshire has underscored serious concerns surrounding drunk driving, shining a light on the potential consequences of alcohol consumption behind the wheel. Siobhan Petrie, a 45-year-old woman from Dunning, faced the repercussions of her reckless behaviour after she caused significant damage to a village bridge and a parked car on the evening of January 6. In what emerged as two incidents within the span of just 12 weeks, Petrie's actions raise fundamental questions about public safety and the growing issue of drink-driving in the region.

On that January evening, Petrie's driving was described as erratic. Following a visit to a local shop, she opted against making a purchase and returned to her Volvo. As she attempted to reverse, she mounted the pavement before accelerating sharply, colliding with a stone wall that eventually collapsed into the water below. The fiscal depute, Nicola Caira, noted how Petrie then drove her car into a stationary Land Rover, causing further chaos.

Responding to the scene, members of the public attempted to assist her, ushering her to a local bar while a friend was called for support. However, when police officers arrived, they encountered an uncooperative Petrie, who attempted to obstruct the breathalyser test by manipulating the device, making it impossible to obtain a proper reading.

Only 12 weeks later, Petrie found herself in yet another precarious situation when she called for help from a roadside emergency phone on the M90. By this point, her alcohol level had soared to staggering heights—initially recorded at 165 micrograms per 100 ml of blood, with a final confirmed reading of 132 micrograms, well above the legal limit of 22 micrograms. As she stood by the roadside, witnesses described her as upset, confused, and unable to provide coherent responses to officers' questions.

Defending Petrie in court, solicitor Jamie Baxter acknowledged her struggles with alcohol, stating, "Clearly there is an issue here that needs to be addressed." He mentioned that following the first incident, the car's driveshaft had snapped, illustrating the physical repercussions of her intoxicated driving. The sheriff, Derek Reekie, expressed severe concern for Petrie's actions, indicating that she was "very fortunate that there wasn’t injury to others" and warned her that her drinking problem was now a "serious public concern."

The incidents involving Petrie mirror a disturbing trend in the region, where cases of dangerous driving and drink-driving are increasingly prevalent. For instance, another recent case involved a 30-year-old man who led police on a high-speed chase through Perth city centre while driving over four times the legal limit. His reckless pursuit ended when he drove the wrong way down a one-way street, highlighting the grave risks to public safety posed by intoxicated individuals behind the wheel.

Moreover, the consequences of impaired driving continue to escalate in various communities worldwide. In a tragic incident in Australia, a woman was charged with manslaughter after a crash caused by her driving under the influence of multiple substances. This case, similar in its disregard for road safety, underscores an urgent need for greater awareness and stringent enforcement of drinking laws.

In handing down her sentence of a four-year driving ban, a fine of £1,050, and an order to complete 120 hours of community service, the authorities aimed to send a clear message. The overarching hope is that these repercussions serve as a wake-up call for individuals like Petrie, prompting the crucial reflection necessary to prevent further incidents.

Public safety advocates argue for stronger preventative measures and public campaigns to combat the rising trend of drink-driving. Increasing awareness around the dangers of alcohol consumption, especially in conjunction with driving, remains imperative in safeguarding communities from such reckless behaviour.

In conclusion, the case of Siobhan Petrie serves as a poignant reminder of the dangers woven into the fabric of alcohol abuse and driving. Her experiences, alongside other troubling incidents, highlight an urgent need for society to confront and address this pervasive issue collectively.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/courts/5239154/drink-driver-perthshire-crashes/), [[2]](https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/courts/5239154/drink-driver-perthshire-crashes/)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/courts/5239154/drink-driver-perthshire-crashes/), [[2]](https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/courts/5239154/drink-driver-perthshire-crashes/)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/courts/5239154/drink-driver-perthshire-crashes/), [[2]](https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/courts/5239154/drink-driver-perthshire-crashes/)
* Paragraph 4 – [[2]](https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/courts/5239154/drink-driver-perthshire-crashes/), [[3]](https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/courts/3625693/police-chase-perth-centre/)
* Paragraph 5 – [[3]](https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/courts/3625693/police-chase-perth-centre/), [[4]](https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-03-16/evie-butterworth-charged-over-fatal-crash-killed-abbey-sheriff/102107668)
* Paragraph 6 – [[1]](https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/courts/5239154/drink-driver-perthshire-crashes/), [[2]](https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/courts/5239154/drink-driver-perthshire-crashes/)
* Paragraph 7 – [[1]](https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/courts/5239154/drink-driver-perthshire-crashes/), [[2]](https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/courts/5239154/drink-driver-perthshire-crashes/)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/courts/5239154/drink-driver-perthshire-crashes/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/courts/5239154/drink-driver-perthshire-crashes/> - A 45-year-old woman from Dunning, Perthshire, was involved in two separate incidents within 12 weeks. In the first, she crashed her Volvo into a stone bridge and a stationary Land Rover, later obstructing a breathalyzer test. In the second, she was found incoherent near Broxden on the M90, with a blood alcohol level six times the legal limit. She admitted charges of careless driving, drink-driving, and refusing to provide breath specimens. The sheriff imposed a four-year driving ban, a £1,050 fine, and 120 hours of unpaid work, emphasizing the seriousness of her offenses.
3. <https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/courts/3625693/police-chase-perth-centre/> - A 30-year-old man led police on a high-speed chase through Perth city center in his mother's car. Driving more than four times the legal alcohol limit, he narrowly avoided collisions and ran red lights. The pursuit ended when he drove the wrong way down a one-way street. He admitted dangerous driving while under the influence of alcohol, driving while disqualified, and without insurance. The sheriff imposed a three-and-a-half-year driving ban, 240 hours of unpaid work, and 18 months of supervision, warning of the serious public danger posed by his actions.
4. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-03-16/evie-butterworth-charged-over-fatal-crash-killed-abbey-sheriff/102107668> - Evie Lyn Butterworth, 29, was charged with manslaughter and driving under the influence of drugs after a fatal crash on the Kwinana Freeway in Baldivis, Perth. The incident occurred on January 11, 2023, when Butterworth's vehicle collided with that of 21-year-old Abbey Sheriff, resulting in Sheriff's death. Police allege Butterworth was driving between 141 and 188 km/h and was under the influence of a combination of drugs, including cocaine, cannabis, and methamphetamine. Butterworth was granted bail and is due back in court later in the month.
5. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-04-06/cooloongup-fatal-crash-drunk-driver-four-times-over-limit/100050122> - Shane Bradley Pearce, 50, pleaded guilty to unlawfully killing two women, Lauren Prothero and Paige Ward, in a crash at a Cooloongup intersection. Pearce was driving more than 40 km/h over the speed limit and had a blood alcohol level four times the legal limit. The crash occurred on May 29, 2020, when Pearce's vehicle collided with the women's car, causing their deaths. Pearce's behavior after the crash was described as aggressive and unhelpful. He was sentenced to 11 years in jail for his actions.
6. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2024-05-01/evie-lyn-butterworth-pleads-guilty-over-fatal-baldivis-crash/103787270> - Evie Lyn Butterworth, 29, pleaded guilty to the manslaughter of 21-year-old Abbey Sheriff, who died in a fatal crash in Baldivis, Perth. The incident occurred on January 11, 2023, when Butterworth's vehicle collided with Sheriff's car on the Kwinana Freeway. Police allege Butterworth was driving between 141 and 188 km/h and was under the influence of a combination of drugs, including cocaine, cannabis, and methamphetamine. Butterworth is due to be sentenced on October 29.
7. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2024-11-28/evie-lyn-butterworth-jailed-over-crash-that-killed-abbey-sheriff/104531518> - Evie Lyn Butterworth, 30, was sentenced to nine and a half years in jail for a high-speed crash in Perth's south that killed 21-year-old Abbey Sheriff. The incident occurred on January 11, 2023, when Butterworth's vehicle collided with Sheriff's car on the Kwinana Freeway. Butterworth was driving about 47 km/h over the speed limit and was under the influence of methylamphetamine, cocaine, and cannabis. The court described her conduct as 'extremely dangerous' and showed 'a complete disregard for the safety of other road users.'